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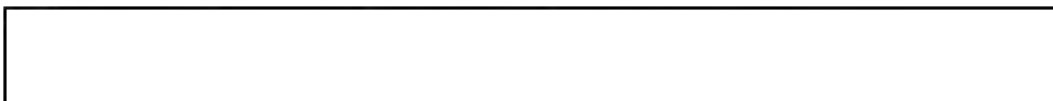
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JORDAN: Government forces seem to be gaining as the heavy fighting continues, but fedayeen resistance is stiff.

In Amman, army units continue their slow advance into the city. Battle lines between the two sides are growing increasingly blurred, but the general areas of conflict apparently remain the same. The army seems to be deliberately encouraging the undisciplined fedayeen to expend their ammunition, which they are doing in large quantities; commando broadcasts have admitted that ammunition is short. The army is not attempting a real house-to-house clearing of areas where the fedayeen are in physical control. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The US Embassy has come under fedayeen fire on several occasions, but so far all personnel are safe.

[REDACTED] Jordanians are making gains in the north. The army is said to be getting the upper hand in Ramtha, just south of the Syrian border. Ramtha is a key town, since Jordanian control there would cut off the movement of fedayeen reinforcements coming in from Syria. At Irbid, the army is said to be on the outskirts of the city, with the fedayeen in control within.

[REDACTED] According to the Jordanian Government, some 50 tanks were concentrating on the frontier near Dar'a and some actually crossed the border and shelled Jordanian positions. The Syrians claimed, however, in response to remonstrations from the Jordanians, that the tanks remained

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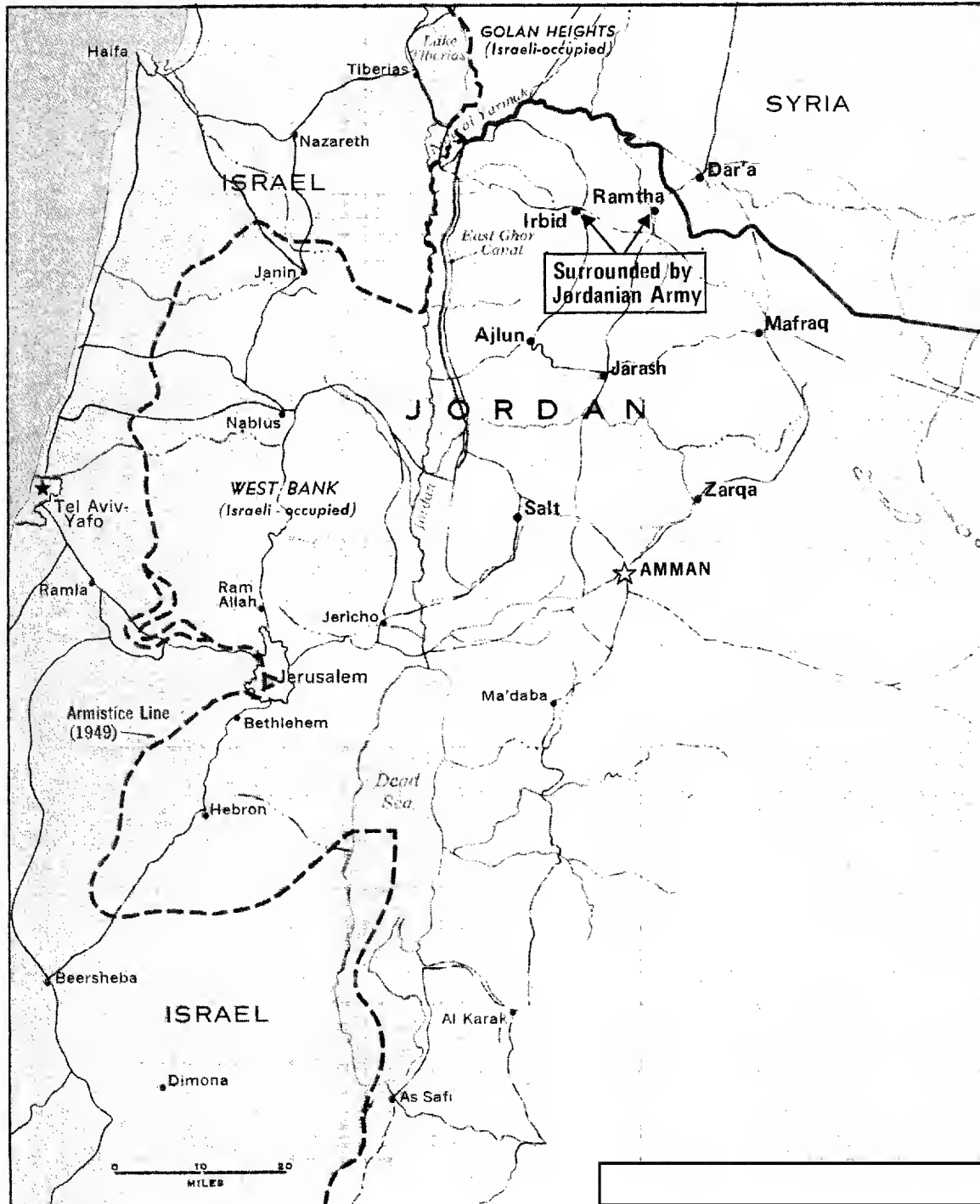
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JORDAN: Current Situation



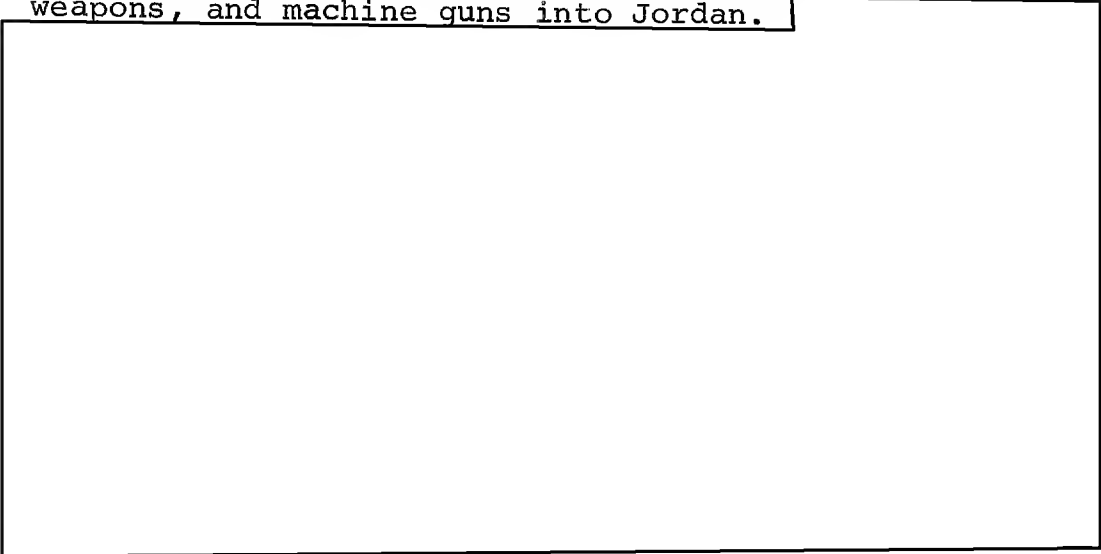
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25X1 [on Syrian territory. The Jordanians say that, unopposed by Iraqi troops who are apparently astride the road, they have interposed a tank force to block further Syrian movement. It is by no means clear that the tanks in question belong to the regular Syrian Army; they could well belong to the Syrian contingent of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA), technically under the control of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), which has also been reported moving trucks carrying ammunition, individual weapons, and machine guns into Jordan.]



Soviet press coverage of the situation, which has been limited largely to citing Arab and Western accounts, appears to be leaning toward the Jordanian Government's position. Pravda gives the impression that fedayeen attacks on government positions were responsible for the latest outbreak of fighting. Both Pravda and Izvestiya have urged that the main thing is to stop the fighting and "prevent outside interference." The Soviet chargé in Washington called at the State Department yesterday to express his government's hope that the US would use its influence in Tel Aviv to prevent Israel from "exploiting" the situation. The chargé also said that the]

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USSR has urged the leaders of Jordan, Iraq, Syria, and Egypt to do their best to end the "fratricidal clashes" in Jordan and prevent the outbreak of civil war. The Soviets are apparently also trying to contact the Palestinians.

A spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) said yesterday that the 54 hostages are "in good condition." A senior PFLP official in Beirut told US Embassy officials there that despite its previous statement, the PFLP was now prepared to negotiate the release of the hostages through the Red Cross. They insist, however, that the negotiations be held in Beirut and quickly, today if possible. The spokesman stressed that the proposal was not made from weakness but for humanitarian reasons. He claimed that as of yesterday afternoon a number of the hostages required medical attention--not because they had been injured in the fighting, but because of their general health. He said that the hostages were housed in areas in which there had been no fighting, but no doctors were available to treat them.

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LAOS: The Communists are continuing to take a hard line in the verbal fencing surrounding their offer to open peace negotiations with Vientiane.

Just before his departure for Europe on 2 September, Prime Minister Souvanna designated Pheng Phongsavan as his spokesman for any discussions with the Communists during his absence. At that point, Pheng was already serving as head of an 18-man delegation that was to represent the government in the anticipated peace talks. The Pathet Lao rejected Pheng on the grounds that he would still be speaking for a government they do not recognize and reiterated their demand that Souvanna pick a personal plenipotentiary in his capacity as a prince of the realm, not as head of the Vientiane government.



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The government's forces are in a poorer military position than they were at this time last year and could come under heavy pressure with the opening of the dry season next month. On the other hand, Hanoi may be loath to enter into another season of expensive struggle in Laos when it has more important wars to fight elsewhere. It thus may be ready to give a little to speed the way toward a limited settlement that would lower the level of its involvement.

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SOUTH AFRICA: Prime Minister Vorster has announced in parliament that his country is prepared to sign nonaggression pacts with other African states.

Vorster coupled this with an offer to help combat "terrorism" in any African country that requested such assistance, as some white-ruled neighbors have done in the past. The strongly worded anti - South Africa pronouncements of the Nonaligned Conference recently concluded in Lusaka probably were on Vorster's mind when he added, "Having taken the initiative, I do hope that the scandalous stories about South African aims and objectives will now come to an end." He also referred to new talk among black African states about sponsoring "large-scale terrorist forces," and claimed that if such groups did in fact invade South Africa, his government's security forces would pursue them right back into the countries from which they came.

The vast majority of black African states would be unwilling to sign a nonaggression pact with South Africa, primarily because they refuse to have any official dealings with Pretoria on any topic. The offer, then, presumably was made not so much to allay black African fears as to persuade the Western nations of South Africa's good intentions toward black Africa. It may also reflect growing concern within South Africa over the mounting international campaign to isolate the country. The threat to pursue "terrorists" into neighboring countries that harbor them--such as Zambia--is simply a repetition of previous warnings.

[REDACTED]

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WEST GERMANY - USSR: The German science delegation headed by Science Minister Leussink currently visiting the USSR is charged with exploring the possibilities for information exchanges and joint projects in numerous scientific and technical fields. In several areas, such as nuclear energy, education, and medicine, the Germans are prepared to make specific proposals. Although the Soviets have indicated a special interest in discussing highly advanced computer technology, Bonn has given assurances that it is well aware of its obligations as a member of COCOM (Coordinated Committee on Export Controls) and will avoid making any commitments in the more sensitive fields. The visit is an outgrowth of the agreement to expand scientific and technical contacts that was contained in the nonaggression treaty signed in August. [REDACTED]

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SWEDEN: As the Swedish parliamentary election campaign winds up, political observers have decided that the contest is too close to call. At issue on 20 September are not only the 350 seats in the nation's new unicameral legislature, but also the thousands of positions in provincial and local assemblies that previously were chosen in off-year elections. The main question is whether Sweden will bring an end to 38 years of Social Democratic rule, the last year under the leadership of controversial Prime Minister Olof Palme. Because of the new electoral rules, the complete election results may not be known for at least ten days. [REDACTED]

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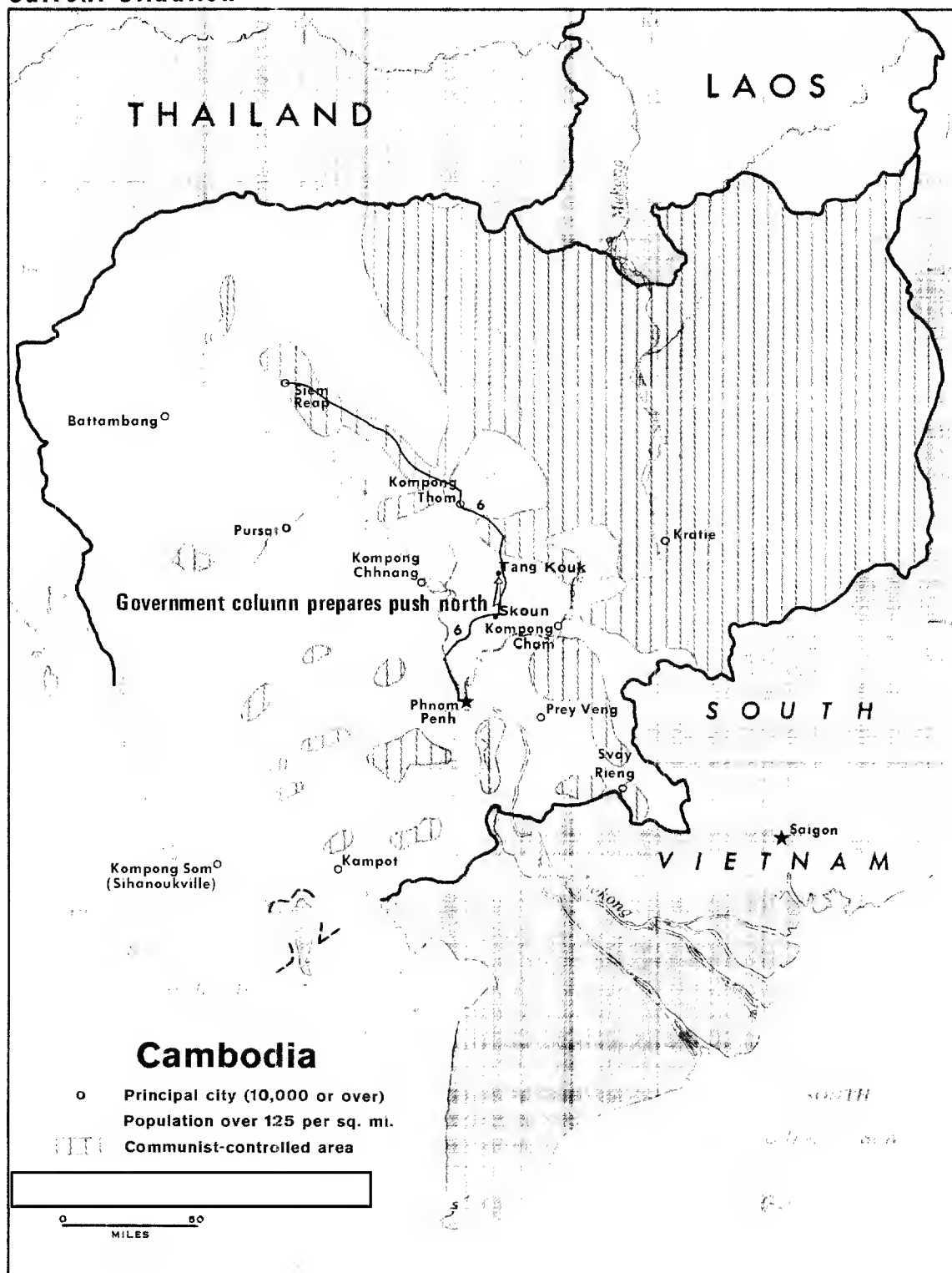
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Current Situation



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CAMBODIA: Reinforced government troops apparently are preparing to resume their drive north toward Kompong Thom. Three fresh Cambodian Army battalions from Kompong Chhnang city reached Skoun yesterday, and they reportedly joined the main body of the stalled government column. The Kompong Thom task force, which has been blocked for most of the week on Route 6 some 13 miles north of Skoun, now consists of nine battalions. The absence of Communist attacks on the column yesterday probably was caused by heavy air strikes on suspected enemy positions near the road.

[REDACTED]

* * * *

CHILE: The heavy concentration of military units for independence day parades today could lead to confrontations in the tense postelection atmosphere. The increasingly intimidating tactics used by Marxist Salvador Allende's partisans to assert his claims to the presidency could set off clashes, particularly among holiday crowds in Santiago.

[REDACTED]

* * * *

CHILE: The financial panic that immediately followed Allende's election victory is having repercussions in neighboring countries. A large flight of funds from Chile has strained the foreign exchange markets of Argentina and Colombia. The Argentine Central Bank has requested immediate shipment of \$9 million in US banknotes, reportedly to satisfy the demands of Chileans for dollars. Colombian banks were swamped with an inflow of Chilean escudos, which was stemmed when the banks decided to accept them only on a consignment basis.

[REDACTED]

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